ISSUE
NO. 05

FIRST OF ITS KIND IN KERALA
CULTURAL WEEKLY NEWS eMAGAZINE

INK OCHI

MAY 14-20
2021

Latest Art, Culture, Food, Tourism news, views and announcements

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Artworks for Sale

Book Reviews from Ely, U.K.

Teej Festival & Procession Jaipur

A Delightful Preparation Coorg Pork Curry

Miniature Handmake Art & Science of Glassbowling

Poem

If I Could Tell You

W H. Auden

Time will say nothing but I told you so,
Time only knows the price we have to pay;
If I could tell you I would let you know.

If we should weep when clowns put on their show,
If we should stumble when musicians play,
Time will say nothing but I told you so.

There are no fortunes to be told, although,
Because I love you more than I can say,
If I could tell you I would let you know.

The winds must come from somewhere when they blow,
There must be reasons why the leaves decay;
Time will say nothing but I told you so.

Perhaps the roses really want to grow,
The vision seriously intends to stay;
If I could tell you I would let you know.

Suppose all the lions get up and go,
And all the brooks and soldiers run away;
Will Time say nothing but I told you so?
If I could tell you I would let you know.

Cover Photo by::
Mohan Palua

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Editor's Note

Why and What is a Cultural Magazine?

These are the questions most we received in our inbox and here we explain.

Cultural magazines must cultivate a readership of connoisseurs rather than an audience of consumers. Cultural magazines have small readerships that appear to have very little cross-over. Cultural Magazines are collectible rather than consumable. Each issue of a cultural magazine adds itself to the previous issues, without replacing any of them, or reducing their relevance.

These qualities make it difficult for cultural magazines to achieve the effect of immediacy or timeliness attained by magazines in other (non-cultural) categories. Any previous or unread copies, when a new issue appears are still valid as they ever were and could or should be retained for further circulation.

From this 5th issue of INKochi eMagazine, we are publishing on a new stunning flipbook format. Readers can now access and read it very easily like an in-hand print edition. We have also brought all previous issues into this format.

Happy eReading!

Varghese T. Thomas

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NEW WAYS OF LIVING TOGETHER

Any plot which is small, narrow, triangular or irregular in their shape and therefore not attractive - consult us.

Not considering these plots could be seen not only as a crisis of quantity but also a crisis of imagination and an absence of design. Utilising these small or irregularly-shaped plots of land for building housing is a vital strategy for us.

Narrow, small, or irregular lots could encourage more small-scale experiments by younger architects like us, and help us to imagine new forms of housing and new ways of living together.

Artwork for Sale

Title: Mountain of Hope

Artist: Aashima Mehrotra

Medium: Oil on canvas - stretched
Size: 18x24 inches | Price: Rs.35000.00

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Teej Festival & Procession Jaipur

Text & Photos by
Mohan Palua

The Teej Festival of Jaipur is one such colorful celebration where several traditional local people take part and celebrate the festival and visitors and tourists watch. This is one of the most lively and active celebration time to visit Rajasthan to be part of the Teej Festival. Women not only dress in green showing the start of monsoon season but all colors of freshness as in newly weds. **>>>**

Teej Festival & Procession Jaipur

History of Teej Festival

This is celebrated in several parts of Rajasthan but most lively in the city of Jaipur. The festival is held at monsoon season and is not on a particular date each year. So, the Teej Festival 2018 is celebrated on 12 August, 2018.

Although, both men and women participate the festival it mostly involves women in the processions and preparations. There are also three types of Teej Festivals known as Kajari Teej, Hartalika Teej & Hariyali Teej. In Jaipur, the Teej procession is carried out over a period of at least 2 days in Old City of Jaipur. >>>

Teej Festival & Procession Jaipur

Significance of Teej Festival

It marks the oncoming of the heavy monsoons as that means prosperity as crops grow in the rains in the dry desert land of Jaipur. The festival is celebrated on the 3rd day of the new moon fortnight into Shravan, the Hindu month that falls between July & August of a calendar year.

Women dress in green saris to show greenery in the pink city during this season. It also mainly signifies marital bliss as women pray for health & wellness of their husbands to Goddess Parvati. They usually wear attire in rich vibrant colors and accessories to signify prosperity and freshness. >>>

Teej Festival & Procession Jaipur

Origin of Teej Festival

As per the beliefs of Hindu customs and in mythology, it is said that the Goddess Parvati and Lord Shiva got back together on this particular day. After doing hard spiritual penance and several different births on earth, it was a successful re-union between Goddess Parvati & Lord Shiva.

According to the mythology, it is until the 107th re-birth that she finally received Shiva as her husband after he accepted her hard penance, devotion, and realized how much she loved him. So, as it was after a long time and her perseverance that she finally got such a moment in her life, Goddess Parvati declared that this moment is a great auspicious time for girls & women in their lives. On this auspicious day, if any woman invokes the Goddess, then she blesses them with a blissful married life. >>>

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Teej Festival & Procession Jaipur

Teej Rituals

During the Teej Festival in Jaipur young girls and married women take out a colorful procession carrying a Goddess Teej Mata. First the idol of the goddess is dressed up in a colorful sari and accessories and then they take out the procession while chanting religious prayers. This is the best time to listen to the songs that the ladies sing while going on the procession. These are generally devotional songs dedicated to Goddess Parvati.

During the three days festival, the womenfolk who are celebrating this festival do not sleep for 3 nights. This tough ritual is symbolic to the tough penance that Goddess Parvati did to attain the love of Shiva.

It is a vibrant and colorful sight in Jaipur as the place is decorated and lighted up in the evening. The gardens and gardens are also kept fresh and organized in a pretty way. There are flowers in various places as you can see young girls swinging while enjoying themselves on a swing. The swings are specially made and decorated in spring flowers especially marigold specially for the Teej Festival. >>>

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Teej Festival & Procession Jaipur

Teej Procession

The dressed up idol of Teej Mata is taken on a procession with women chanting and singing devotional songs. There is lot of happiness and prayers for their husband's well being during this time while unmarried girls pray for a good husband. Women also go to their parents houses and are gifted with new colorful gifts and saris. The procession is a long walk that finally ends at a place known as Kanak Vrindavan.

The traditional procession of Goddess Teej is also the ultimate hub of a large number of folk and cultural programs which is enjoyed by both locals as well as tourists visiting the city during this time.

The entire Teej procession is filled with loads of merriment which is not to be missed if you are in Jaipur.

Artwork for Sale

Title: Untitled
Artist: Binu Kottarakkara

Medium: Watercolour
Surface: Canson Paper 300gsm - Rolled
Size: 21x14 inches | Price: Rs.5000.00

Code: INK137 | Contact: Calls & WhatsApp - 8547107471

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Glass Art & Science of glassblowing
who would ever have thought
there was so much science
in art -- or so much art in science?

By Judea Street

Kiva Ford's passion with glass is anchored by his college degree in Scientific Glassblowing. Through years of work creating complex glass instruments for scientist's use, he has perfected his precision and technique in manipulating glass. From fabricating particle detection tubes, to optical cells for dark matter research, Kiva has collaborated with scientists at top universities and research institutions throughout the United States. Kiva has been recognized for his technical excellence multiple times by the American Scientific Glassblowers Society.

Beyond the scientific community Kiva is more commonly known for his exquisite sculptures, goblets, pendants, and vessels in lampworked borosilicate glass. His work has been featured by The New York Times, the Corning Museum of Glass, and the Glass Art Society. He has been invited to teach glassblowing techniques at demonstrations and workshops around the world. Kiva's pursuit of technique, form, and precision are apparent throughout his work. His artistic creations are influenced by his interests in history, mythology, and the natural world. >>>

Glass Art & Science

Besides the blowing-things-up aspect, the thing that I enjoy most about chemistry is the glassware -- it's beautiful. In this video, we meet master craftsman Kiva Ford, who creates intricate scientific glassware as well as the delicate vessels and glass animals that we like to purhase for our personal enjoyment.

Aside from Mr Ford's pastime of creating miniature distillation vessels and delicately curlicued glass jewelry, his day job is as a scientific glassblower, creating extractors, reactors, condensers, and a variety of custom flasks. The vessels used in chemical research cannot be mass produced; each piece has been meticulously handcrafted for thousands of years.

A Delightful Preparation

Coorg Pork Pandi Curry

Text by: Varghese T. Thomas

I have had Coorgi Pork several times during my frequent visit to Mercara (Medikeri), Coorg (Kodagu).

This dish is one of the gems from the Coorgi cuisine. Coorg district of Karnataka is having a unique history. Though famous for coffee, however, their food altogether is unique.

The Coorgis are mainly tribals and a clan of warriors. Coorg was inaccessible and unapproachable by the outsiders since long and that was the reason the locals started using the local spices to their best and that makes the Coorgi Cuisine special. Coorgis mostly are the non-vegetarians and they are majorly rice eaters.

Amongst other things are widely used by the Coorgi people such as Pork, Jungle Mango, Colocasia, Rice, and Jackfruit; Kachampuli, is the widely known Coorgi souring agent. In fact, it is their version of balsamic vinegar. Kachampuli is one the major ingredient required to make authentic Coorg Pandi Curry, a pork delicacy.

The distinct flavor of the vinegar makes the curry different and one of its kind. Kachampuli is prepared from the extract of Kodambuli (Malayalam) fruit. The Coorgi people use this as a souring agent. They prefer to cook it in own fat and uses Green Chili a lot.

Recipe >>> next page

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CUISINE

A Delightful Preparation

Coorg Pork Pandi Curry

Prep. time: 10 mts | Cook time: 1 hr | Yield: 3 people

RECIPE

By: Ranee Vijaya Kuttaiah

INGREDIENTS

Pork: 1/2 kg
Oil: 1 Tsp.
Turmeric Powder: 1/4 Tsp.
Red chili powder: 1/2 Tsp.
Mustard seeds: 1/4 Tsp.
Curry leaves: 6-7
Coorgi spice Powder:1 Tbsp. (see details below)
Pork stock - 1/2 cup
Coorgi Spice Paste: 1 Tbsp. (see details below)
Turmeric extract: 1 Tsp.
Water: 4-5 cups
Kachampuli: 1 Tsp
Salt to taste

To make Coorgi Spice:

Fenugreek seeds: 1 Tsp.
Cumin seeds: 1/2 Tsp.
Coriander seedsTsp: 1/2 Tsp.
Pepper: 1 Tsp.

Spice Paste:

Small onions, quartered: 2 1/2
Ginger: 1/2"
Cloves: 7
Curry leaves: 10-12
Small green chilies: 4-5
Coriander leaves: 1/4 bunch
Oil:1/2 Tsp.

INSTRUCTIONS

To make the Coorgi Spice Powder:

Take a pan, put it on slow flame. Add fenugreek seeds, cumin seeds, coriander seeds and pepper. Mix all the seeds well. Roast them, till it changes color. Once roasted, let them cool for a while. Powder the cooled mixture and use it as a masala. Keep the ready masala/ spice powder aside.

To make the Coorgi masala paste:

Heat a pan on slow flame. Add onions, ginger, cloves, curry leaves and small green chilies. Cook until the onions turn golden brown. Once cooked, add a handful of coriander leaves and oil so that the ingredients don't stick to each other. Mix and remove from heat. Now grind this paste nicely. Keep aside.

To make Pandi Curry:

Add oil in a pan. When it heats up, add mustard seeds, curry leaves and let them sizzle. Then add the Coorgi Masala masala paste and mix well. Then add half a cup of water, masala, half cup pork stock, Turmeric Powder and red chili powder. Once fried, add pork, turmeric extract, Kachampuli and salt to taste. Mix well. Add 4-5 cups of water. Cover the pan and cook it until the pork turn tender. Once cooked garnish it with coriander leaves.

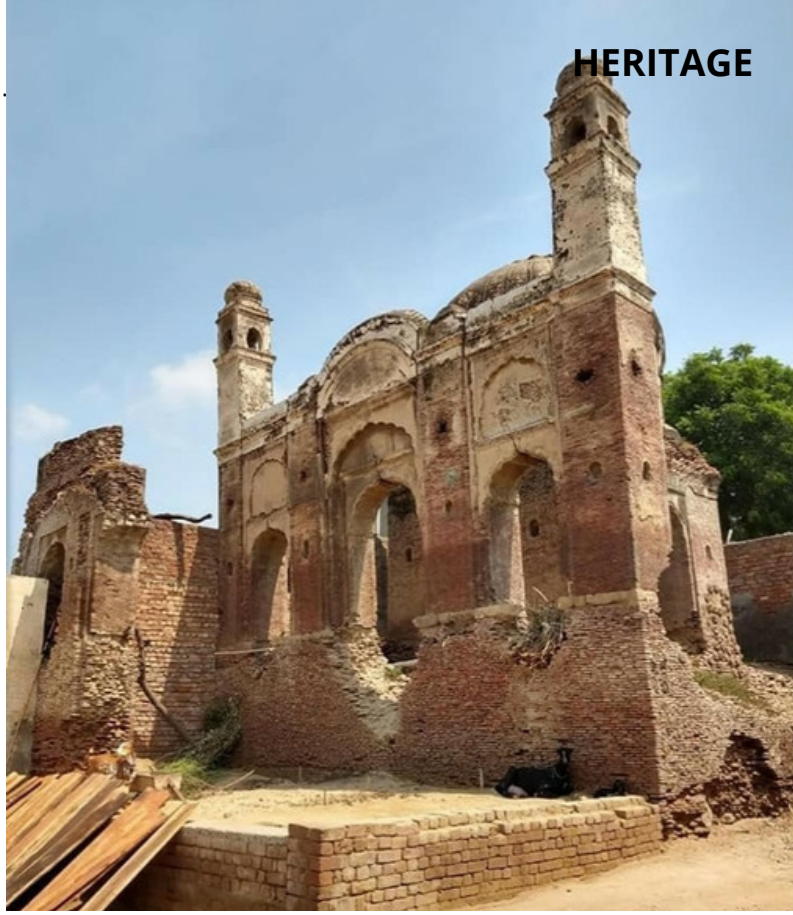
Historic Mosques

Contribution : Shariq Khan

Historic Mosque of Fatehabad Village, MadhyaPradesh

Built in the year 1658 AD after the Battle of Dharmat fought between Mughal Prince Aurangzeb and the Imperial forces of his father Mughal Emperor Shahjahan and his brother Prince Darahshikoh.

In this battle, Imperial forces under the leader of Maharajah Jaswant Rathore of Jodhpur were defeated by the joint army of Prince Aurangzeb & Prince Murad.



Historic Mosques Of Haryana

The architecture of Meham's Pirzada Masjid is very significant and marks what many believe to be the first instance of the use of a bulbous dome in the region. This type of dome then went on to inspire countless other buildings that were made later during the era of the Mughals and beyond.

The mosque was designed by Ustad Yusuf Mimar who was a student of the Ottoman Empire's most famous Architect Mimar Sinan.

Ustad Yusuf came to the subcontinent with Emperor Babar got married and had a son here. His son Ahmed Mimar Lahori then went on to design the Taj Mahal.

Today, much of the mosque has been destroyed and no one (absolutely no one) is trying to conserve it.

The winding lanes of Tollygunge road area with their cluttered shops , fish sellers, and human beings as far as one can see, hold some valuable heritage treasures unknown to the uninformed.

For this is the area through where Ganges originally flowed before it changed its route. Expectedly the area contains ghats and centuries old temples which would have been visited by hordes of pilgrims once. The Adi Ganga (or the True Ganga) today is nothing but a sad reminder to the past having degraded to the level of a dirty, black nalla. And the temples are overgrown with vegetation, encroached and in utter ruins.

Historic
Choto Rash Bari Temple
Tollygunge

Contribution : Shariq Khan

Choto Rash Bari is one such sad example. The temple is entered through a pedimented gate supported by 4 Doric columns . There is a large courtyard inside with 6 Aat Chala style temples on either side having a shivling within.

However the most eye catching heritage lies on the northern wall with a Navaratna Temple standing between 2 Panchratna temples. The Navaratna one is dedicated to Radha and Krishna. The temple complex probably belongs to 1840 and is in a real pitiable state.

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Folk of Kerala Series...

Sanghakali

By: Vinu Kumar

Sanghakali, one of the oldest ritual theatrical art forms of Kerala.

According to renowned scholar Ulloor S. Paramseswara Iyer, Sanghakali (Yathrakali) emerged in the sixth century A.D. Known as an art form of the Namboodiris, Sanghakali must have originated during a period when the Namboodiri community was a predominant community. Political and sociological aspects of that era are also reflected in Sanghakali. Members of certain families formed a group and it was their right to perform Sanghakali in certain areas. There existed several Sanghakali groups in the previous century.

Sanghakali is a comprehensive art form in which 10 vivid segments are integrated. In its heyday, this art form was part of functions such as weddings, Upanayanam (wearing of the sacred thread), and birthday celebrations in Namboodiri families in Kerala.

Vanishing act

According to 91-year-old Govindan Namboodiri, Sanghakali in its full form was last performed in the early fifties. As the Namboodiri community lost its predominance, socially and economically, Sanghakali also disappeared from society.

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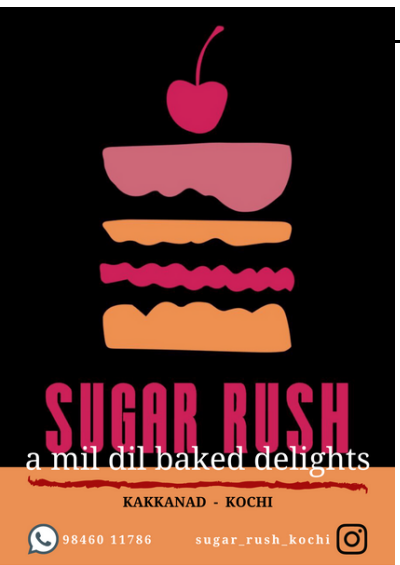

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Lifeline

Pongging Hanging Bridge

Contribution : Ansuman Majumder

Pongging hanging bridge made of metal and bamboo frame, is a lifeline of the people of one of the least populated small village of Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh with a population of almost 339 and about 50 houses,

It is the only way of transportation for the villagers & every day many villagers cross the bridge carrying at least 20 to 30 kg of things on their head. The visitors enjoy the hanging bridge since one can view the splendid view of the river which is surrounded by green hills & it is really joyful to view the natural beauty.

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Lecture 9 of 24
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Poet and Critic
Respondents
Amrith Lal
Writer & Senior Associate Editor, The Indian Express
Arya A
Research scholar in the University of Kerala, working on gender and sartorial politics in 19th century Travancore.
The programme is conceived of as a series of 24 fortnightly talks followed by critical responses.
All are cordially invited. For participation, contact centreforculturalstudiesuok@gmail.com
Meena T. Pillai, Director, Centre for Cultural Studies